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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 15 August 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

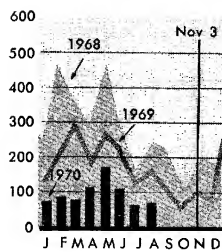
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

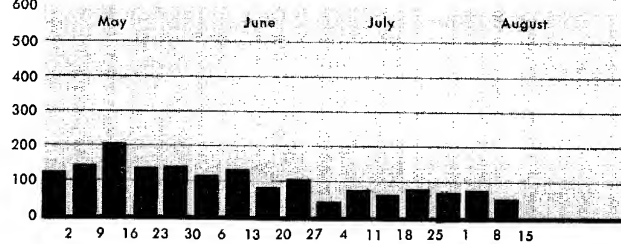
Weekly average for each month



APRIL - AUGUST 1970

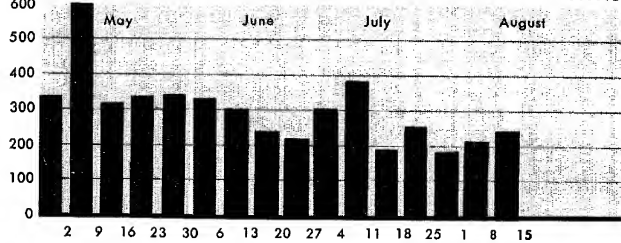
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



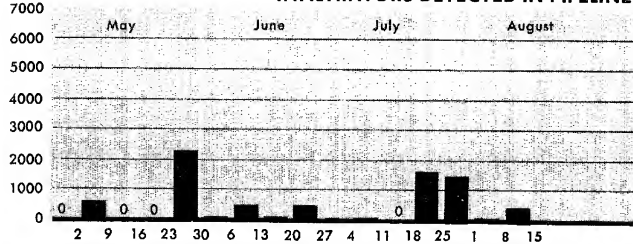
dropped to 68 from last week's 85.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



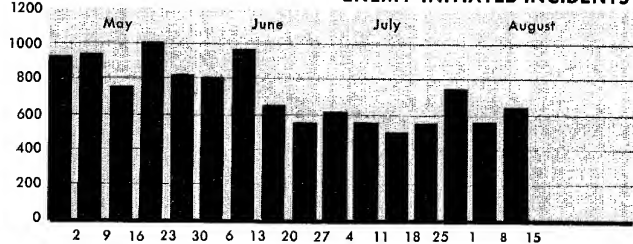
climbed to 257 from last week's 223. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



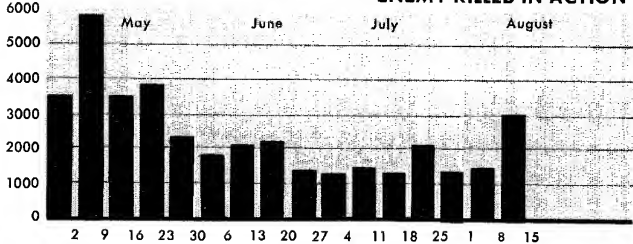
stand at one battalion size group, with a strength of 589. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 is now estimated at 64,000 - 65,500.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



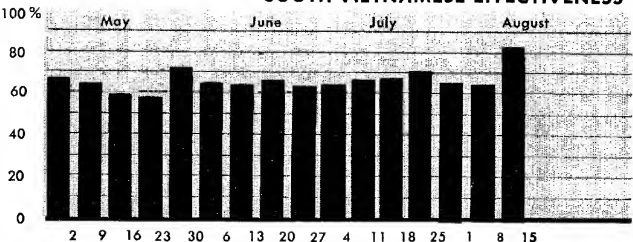
rose to 671 following last week's sharp decline to 587.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



more than doubled this week. The 3,186 enemy killed is the highest total since the early phases of the Cambodian operations.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces climbed sharply to 84% from last week's 65%. This is the highest percentage reached since the initiation of this report in November 1969.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, the enemy concentrated his efforts in eastern Quang Tri Province in Military Region 1, with a series of widespread, coordinated attacks. Quick, well-directed responses by both ARVN regular and paramilitary units were impressively successful in repulsing these attacks and inflicting serious casualties on the enemy. The introduction of elements of enemy main force units into the coastal lowlands at this time suggests the Communists may be launching a serious bid to contest the GVN presence in this area, which has been solidifying since 1968 when the Communists last made such an intrusion.

Military activity has dropped off considerably in Laos as heavy rains continue to impede operations. The Communists continue their defensive strategy by limiting their operations to pre-emptive harassing actions. In north Laos, General Vang Pao's rainy season offensive, disrupted previously by heavy enemy probes, is scheduled to be launched on 18 August to retake vital forward positions north of his base at Long Tieng. In southern Laos, one friendly site was lost, but otherwise it has been unusually quiet as persistent threats of major attacks have failed to materialize.

In Cambodia, the Communists continue to maintain pressure north of Phnom Penh, but military activity has generally tapered off during the week. The highlight of the week's activity was a series of large-scale Communist attacks on the isolated provincial capital of Kompong Thom, which were successfully fended off by FANK defenders. The increasing fears of Cambodian Government officials over an expansion of enemy activity against Phnom Penh appears to be at least partially justified by a COSVN message of 13 August, which indicated the Communists intend to continue reconnaissance activities and "oppressive" action around the city. Small harassing probes and attacks by fire will probably dominate military activities for the near term, although regroupment of enemy main force units toward the Kompong Thom area presages an increase in enemy activity there.

South Vietnam Developments

The campaign for the 30 August Senate elections opened last week, with Saigon political observers generally agreed that two pro-government (ten-man) slates and one opposition slate are the front runners at this point. There is, as yet, no indication that the elections will be other than essentially free, and if this proves to be the case, they should have a beneficial effect on popular confidence in political process. Only four of 180 original candidates were disqualified on grounds of sympathy toward Communism or "pro-Communist neutralism," and no direct interference or intimidation of the opposition lists by government officials has been reported or claimed. However, President Thieu's preferences have been communicated to certain military commanders and government officials, and this is likely to result in some irregularities on the part of over-zealous local officials.

The Hamlet Evaluation System results for the end of July show that 92.4 percent of the population is now living in areas rated A, B, or C, an increase of 1.3 percent over June. The VC population dropped a small fraction to 1.1 percent. The government population totaled 16,560,000; the VC population totaled 205,300; and 1,163,000 lived in contested or unevaluated areas. Military Region 2 has just about recovered from the setbacks of last spring, registering a three percent gain. The provinces along the Cambodian border showed only small changes, with mixed results.

Communist Developments

Mai Van Bo, the chief of the North Vietnamese diplomatic mission in Paris, will return to his post in time to host a North Vietnamese national day reception on 2 September. He has been in Hanoi since last spring.

Xuan Thuy and Madame Binh, the DRV and PRG delegation chiefs, will want to remain in Hanoi for the holiday. Consequently, do not anticipate "anything will happen in Paris" before mid-September.

25X6

25X6

25X6

Enemy Infiltration

Personnel infiltration remains at a seasonal low, with only one battalion-size group detected during the week. The total estimate of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 now stands at 64,000 - 65,500.

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